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[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: METHOD OF FILTERING A BITSTREAM ACCORDING TO USER SPECIFICATIONS

BST \longrightarrow SYN V S1

UP ? V SEM

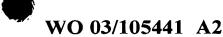
D2(MEi) \longrightarrow TP(i)

TP(i) ? V SYN \longrightarrow ETj

FSYN \subset {ETk, V S4

(57) Abstract: The invention proposes a method of filtering a bitstream according to user specifications. The proposed method uses a semantic description and a syntactical description of the bitstream. The semantic description is scanned to select the elementary units that match the user specification. The time is used as a linking mechanism between the semantic description and the syntactical description to locate the elements of the syntactical description that are to be removed. A filtered syntactical description is generated by removing the located elements. Finally, a filtered bitstream is generated from the filtered syntactical description.

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